

6. HEALTH CARE FOR FOREIGNERS

Data on foreigners provided in this chapter, which are in the framework of the National Health Information System (NHIS) processed by the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the CR (IHIS CR), have been obtained from national health registers (the National Register of Hospitalised Patients, the National Register of Reproduction Health), an information system of bodies for public health protection (the Register of Tuberculosis), and from an Annual report on the utilization of health care by foreigners. The aforementioned selected data sources on the health sector provide only partial information on the total utilization of health care by foreigners in the CR and their state of health. Further information on data sources of the NHIS can be found on the website of the IHIS CR at: <https://www.uzis.cz/index-en.php>.

Besides information from data of the NHIS published here, the Health Insurance Bureau publishes data on utilization of health care by foreigners – citizens of the EU/EEA and Switzerland, and foreigners from countries with which it has signed an agreement on social security, including the area of health insurance and provision of health care, and data on costs spent on that health care. More information at: <https://www.kancelarzp.cz/index.php/en>.

Methodological notes on the Tables

Table 6-1 Trends in utilization of health care by foreigners in the years 2010-2018 and Tables 6-2a (6-2b) and 6-3a (6-3b) Utilization of health care by foreigners

Data on the utilization of health care by foreigners are measured by an annual report “V (MZ) 1-01”. It is filled in only by providers of in-patient care for health care establishments denoted as hospitals regardless the type of care they provide to foreigners, i.e. including out-patient care. The report does not measure health care paid from the public health insurance. Therefore, it regards only foreigners who cover health care from health insurance policies concluded in the CR, insurance policies concluded abroad, in cash, or whose health care is reimbursed by state authorities (the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, regional authorities, and the like). The figures also include asylum applicants accommodated in asylum facilities of the Ministry of the Interior, whose health care is paid by the Ministry of the Interior.

In 2019, the report was not delivered by 4 reporting units in total. The year before, those establishments reported health care provided to 2.5 thousand foreigners in total with the total amount of costs of CZK 5.6 million. Therefore, the under-estimation of data for 2019 can thus make up to 2%.

The number of foreigners utilizing health care in hospitals out of the public health insurance has been increasing for a long time. From 2010 to 2019, there was an increase by 60.4% from 79.6 thousand persons to 127.6 thousand. A slight decrease in 2017 was an exception. In 2019, there was a marked increase of foreigners from third countries (non-EU countries); their number in 2019 exceeded the number of foreigners from EU countries by 6.3 thousand (10.3%). The amount of costs spent on health care for foreigners increased even much more, namely by 84.6% from CZK 588 thousand to CZK 1.085 billion. Whereas average costs per foreigner from a third country slightly decreased from 2010 to CZK 6.4 thousand, for foreigners from EU Member States they increased from 8 thousand up to 10.8 thousand in 2019.

In 2019, 127.6 thousand foreigners in total found a medical treatment in hospitals of all ministries in the Czech Republic, i.e. by 8.4 thousand persons more compared to the previous year. Of the total number of treated foreigners, 60.7 thousand persons (47.5%) were from Member States of the EU. From the point of view of distribution by Region, the highest number of foreigners was treated again in hospitals of the Hl. m. Praha Region, i.e. 53.0 thousand persons (41.5%). As for the number of treated foreigners, other Regions ranked as follows: the Jihomoravský Region (20.1 thousand persons), the Plzeňský Region (7.1 thousand), the Moravskoslezský Region (6.7 thousand), and the Středočeský Region (6.6 thousand). In 2019, the highest number of foreigners treated in the CR was among citizens of the Slovak Republic (27.7 thousand). They were

followed by Ukrainians (23.6 thousand), Germans (8.9 thousand), Russians (8.3 thousand), and Vietnamese (6.1 thousand).

In 2019, health care provided to foreigners in hospitals of the CR required costs in the total amount of CZK 1 084.7 million, of which 60.5% (CZK 656.6 mil.) were costs for patients from Member States of the EU. The highest costs were for citizens of Slovakia (CZK 340.0 mil.) followed by citizens of the Ukraine (CZK 141.5 mil.), Germany (CZK 88.7 mil.), the Russian Federation (CZK 57.2 mil.), and Poland (49.8 million). As at 31 December 2019, for health care provided to foreigners, the total of CZK 48 million (i.e. 4.4% of the total amount of costs for health care provided to foreigners in hospitals) remained unpaid after the maturity date. For foreigners from Member States of the EU, CZK 17 million remained unpaid in due time.

Table 6-4 Foreigners treated in hospitals by cause of hospitalisation in 2019

Data in the Table come from the National Register of Hospitalised Patients; they were included in the publication after two years again. Data from the years 2016 and 2017 were vastly reported in an incorrect way as for citizenship, which artificially caused an enormous increase in the number of foreigners. Along with a transition to a new information system within the NHIS united technological platform, rules for reporting foreigners were made stricter in 2019.

In 2019, 67.5 thousand cases of hospitalisation of foreigners in hospital departments (wards) were reported, i.e. by 3.9% less hospitalisations compared to 2018. The National Register of Hospitalised Patients (unlike the “V (MZ) 1-0” report) measures care regardless the way of payment and only for patients hospitalised on a bed, while the report measures both the out-patient and in-patient care, however, only the one, which is not paid from the public health insurance. Although both the cases apply to care provided in hospitals in the Czech Republic, the mentioned numbers of foreigners in both the data sources are incomparable due to those reasons.

The most frequent reason for hospitalisation of foreigners remains the same as in the previous years: pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (34% of hospitalisations as for females). It is followed (with 13% of hospitalisations) by related factors influencing health status and contact with health services (most often, hospitalisation of healthy newborns, accompaniment of a sick child; it is followed by medical check-ups and examinations, which require hospitalisation, and observations when there is some suspicion of certain diseases). The third most frequent reason (10% of hospitalisations) among foreigners are injuries, poisoning, and some other consequences of external causes, which as for males rank first with 16% of hospitalisations. Compared to the previous year, the number of hospitalisations of foreigners due to pregnancies, deliveries, mental disorders, and diseases of the circulatory system has increased.

Tables 6-5 and 6-6 Abortions in female foreigners

Data on abortions in female foreigners come from the National Register of Reproduction Health - Abortions. All types of abortions made in health establishments of the CR have to be reported on the form “Application for Induced Abortion - Report of Abortion and Ectopic Pregnancy”. This report is compulsory and both are liable to it: Czech nationals – females with permanent residence in the territory of the CR as well as female foreigners regardless of the type and length of their stay. Data on abortions are published only as for female foreigners with a permanent or a long-term residence in the territory of the CR.

In 2019, 1 699 abortions in female foreigners with a permanent or a long-term residence in the territory of the CR were registered in the Czech Republic. It is a decrease by 0.8 p. p. compared to 2018. Of that, 978 abortions (57.6%) were induced abortions, of which 17.0% were medically indicated. Vacuum aspirations (menstrual regulations) made 67.6% of all induced abortions; compared to the previous year, they decreased by 5.4 p. p. (699 in 2018 and 661 in 2019).

Since 2002, the total number of abortions in female foreigners has been gradually decreasing (from 2 751 in 2002 to 2 238 in 2005). From 2006 to 2008, the number of abortions increased. After the three years of growth, the number of abortions in female foreigners in the CR was continually decreasing from 2009 to 2017 (from 3 020 in 2009 to 1 691 in 2017). Although in 2018 there was an increase compared to 2017, in 2019 there was a decrease in the number of abortions again (from 1 712 in 2018 to 1 699 in 2019). The evaluation of the data by Region is influenced by the biggest

concentration of foreigners in the Hl. m. Praha Region and the Středočeský Region, in which there is the biggest proportion of abortions within the whole CR.

Table 6-7 Newly notified TB cases in the CR by the patient's country of birth

The table gives the number of newly notified cases of tuberculosis (TB) in the CR broken down by the country of birth of patients (not necessarily foreigners).

In 2019, 464 TB cases were newly notified in the CR. Compared to 2018, the number of notified cases increased (by 20 cases more, year-on-year). From a long-term point of view, the number of TB cases in the CR has been permanently decreasing. The number of TB cases among Czech citizens increased, year-on-year (by 26 cases); however, among persons born outside the CR it slightly decreased (by 6 cases). Out of the total number of recorded TB cases, the share of persons born outside the CR is 30.4%. The highest number of newly notified TB cases in the CR in 2019 was among citizens of the Ukraine (38 cases), Romania (23), Viet Nam (14), Slovakia (11), and Mongolia (10).

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Since 2018, Table 6-4 has been added again to Chapter 6 on health care for foreigners in the Czech Republic. It shows numbers of hospitalized foreigners in hospitals in the CR, the same as in the publication with data for the year 2015 (formerly Table 6-3). The data are provided for the health sector as a whole. Up until 2002 (2002 included), data in tables were published only for the Ministry of Health.

From 2018, the Table 6-1 including a chart is added in the beginning of the chapter; the chart shows utilization of health care by foreigners in hospitals in the CR outside the public health insurance. It is followed by Tables 6-2a, 6-2b, 6-3a, and 6-3b, which have the same source. Due to an undetected error of several providers that provided (despite the methodology of the report) costs in CZK, while it had to be in thousands of CZK, overestimated results were presented in publications in 2016 and 2017. This publication already contains the series with corrected data for the years 2015 and 2016. In the "Foreigners in the Czech Republic" publication, an overview table has been published since 2011, which applies to utilization of health care by foreigners by Region (Table 6 -2b) and by total costs by Region (Table 6-3b).